

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the final Office Action dated January 29, 2007. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 7, 9-13, 24-27 and 31, without prejudice. Claims 8 and 14 were rewritten in independent format. Claims 16, 17, 19, 20 and 28, having been previously withdrawn, but being dependent upon allowed base claims, have been reinstated for consideration. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 8, 14, 15, 18, 23, 29 and 30. Furthermore, as claims 16, 17, 19, 20 and 28 are dependent upon claim 15, Applicants submit that they are allowable, as being dependent upon an allowed base claim. As claims 1, 7, 9-13, 24-27 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice/disclaimer to the subject matter embodied thereby, and all remaining pending claims have been indicated to constitute allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

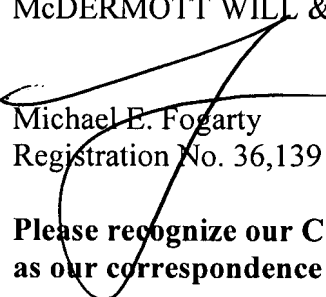
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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